

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21025

Easy Access Elections Bill

This legislation provides an option for county commissioners to adopt a vote-by-mail election system in their county that would apply to all primary, general, and special elections. Ballots would be mailed to all registered voters. However, some polling locations would be available for those wishing to make a physical appearance at the polls, or for those exercising same day registration. Mail-in-ballots would contain a ballot, a return signature verification envelope, and a secrecy envelope. The signature on the return envelope will be verified with the signature on the elector's registration card. No ballots will be counted until Election Day. Currently, all counties utilize absentee voting and nine (9) counties utilize the mail ballot precinct law. Voter participation is greater in these precincts as compared to the turnout county-wide. To date, no complaints of fraud in the mail ballot precincts have been filed in Idaho.

FISCAL NOTE

There will be no fiscal impact to the General Fund. The impact to local government will be determined on a county-by-county basis for those counties who choose the vote-by-mail option.

Contact:

Name: Representative John Rusche

Office:

Phone: (208) 332-1133